

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 7-14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicant AMENDS
Claim 7.

On October 10, 2008, Applicant filed a Request for Continued Examination, along with a TWO-Month Extension of Time, to have the Amendment filed August 7, 2008 entered. In anticipation of the Examiner repeating the prior art rejections in the Final Office Action dated May 7, 2008, Applicant has amended Claim 7 in this Amendment.

Applicant greatly appreciates the Examiner's indication that Claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

On page 3 of the Final Office Action dated May 7, 2008, the Examiner rejected Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Taneji et al. (JP 08-191238), as cited in the IDS dated June 22, 2006. On page 4 of the Final Office Action dated May 7, 2008, the Examiner rejected Claims 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taneji et al. On page 5 of the Final Office Action dated May 7, 2008, the Examiner rejected Claims 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taneji et al., as applied to Claims 7 and 8 above, and further in view of Applicants Admitted Prior Art (AAPA), Figure 2.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of Claims 7, 8, and 10-14.

Applicant's Claim 7 recites:

A signal output circuit comprising:
an output transistor of an NPN type bipolar transistor arranged to output an output signal;
a ground side output control transistor that turns ON and OFF according to an input signal so that turning ON drops the potential of a base of the output transistor to turn OFF the output transistor, and turning OFF raises the potential of the base of the output transistor to turn ON the output transistor;
a base current supply resistive element arranged to supply current from an input power supply to the base of the output transistor when the output transistor turns ON;
a power supply side output control transistor located between the base current supply resistive element and the base of the output transistor and

arranged to turn ON and OFF in opposite ways as the ground side output control transistor according to the input signal;

a ground side current bypass transistor that turns ON and OFF in the same way as the ground side output control transistor according to the input signal; and

a current limitation resistive element including a first end connected to the base current supply resistive element and a second end connected to the ground side current bypass transistor; wherein

when the output transistor turns OFF, turning ON the ground side current bypass transistor allows current to flow from the base current supply resistive element into the ground side current bypass transistor through the current limitation resistive element to drop the voltage applied to the power supply side output control transistor. (emphasis added)

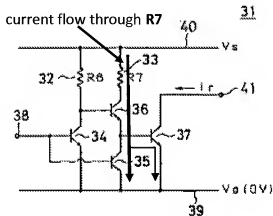
In Section No. 5 on pages 3 and 4 of the Final Office Action dated May 7, 2008, the Examiner alleged that resistor **R6** of Taneji et al. corresponds to the current limitation resistive element recited in Applicant's Claim 7, alleged that resistor **R7** of Taneji et al. corresponds to the base current supply resistive element recited in Applicant's Claim 7, alleged that transistor **34** of Taneji et al. corresponds to the ground side current bypass transistor recited in Applicant's Claim 7, and alleged that transistor **35** of Taneji et al. corresponds to the output transistor recited in Applicant's Claim 7.

Applicant has amended Claim 7 to recite the features of "a current limitation resistive element including a first end connected to the base current supply resistive element and a second end connected to the ground side current bypass transistor" such that "when the output transistor turns OFF, turning ON the ground side current bypass transistor allows current to flow from the base current supply resistive element into the ground side current bypass transistor through the current limitation resistive element to drop the voltage applied to the power supply side output control transistor." Support for these amendments is found, for example, in Applicant's **Fig. 1**.

Applicant respectfully submits that Taneji et al. fails to teach or suggest these features.

As seen below in the marked-up **Fig. 5** of Taneji et al., none of the current that flows through resistor **R7** flows through resistor **R6**. That is, when transistor **34** of Taneji et al. is

turned ON, none of the current, which flows from resistor **R7** into the transistor **35**, flows through resistor **R6**.



Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Taneji et al. fails to teach or suggest the features of "a current limitation resistive element including a first end connected to the base current supply resistive element and a second end connected to the ground side current bypass transistor" such that "when the output transistor turns OFF, turning ON the ground side current bypass transistor allows current to flow from the base current supply resistive element into the ground side current bypass transistor through the current limitation resistive element to drop the voltage applied to the power supply side output control transistor" as recited in Applicant's Claim 7.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Taneji et al.

The Examiner has relied upon AAPA to allegedly cure various deficiencies in Taneji et al. However, AAPA, applied alone or in combination with Taneji et al., fail to teach or suggest the features of "a current limitation resistive element including a first end connected to the base current supply resistive element and a second end connected to the ground side current bypass transistor" such that "when the output transistor turns OFF, turning ON the ground side current bypass transistor allows current to flow from the base current supply resistive element into the ground side current bypass transistor through the current limitation resistive element to drop

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the voltage applied to the power supply side output control transistor" in combination with the other features recited in Applicant's Claim 7.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art of record, applied alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest the unique combination and arrangement of elements recited in Claim 7 of the present application. Claims 8-14 depend upon Claim 7 and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that Claim 7 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

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